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06/30/2008

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3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER
NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101

EXAMINER

HOLLIDAY, JAIME MICHELLE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,180	11/13/2003	Hidetada Nago	1232-5208	9816

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMMUNICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	09/30/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

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III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	09/30/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HOLLIDAY, JAIME MICHELE	2617	455-411000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
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3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

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- ☐ A check is enclosed.
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☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2008

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 324 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 324 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/713,180

Examiner

JAIME M. HOLLIDAY

Applicant(s)

NAGO, HIDEYADA

Art Unit

2617

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendments filed March 10, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,5,13,14 and 17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Response to Amendment

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see REMARKS, filed March 10, 2008, with respect to claims 1, 4, 5, 14, 14 and 17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The U.S.C. 103 (a) rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 14 and 17 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 14 and 17** are allowed, and they are renumbered **claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**, respectively.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Consider claims 1, 4 and 5, the most relevant prior art of record, Noda (U.S. 2005/0015467 A1) in view of Sato (U.S. 2003/0009541 A1) in view Bartolome et al. (U.S. 7,149,805 B2), fail to specifically disclose first reading the printer ID, wherein if there is an error, the SSID is not read from the memory of the wireless LAN adapter, and the SSID is read when the printer ID of the printing apparatus matches the printer of ID that was first read.

Noda clearly shows and discloses communication apparatus and method that allow setting for forming a wireless link. A personal computer **1**, includes a CPU (central processing unit) **11**, which is connected to an input/output interface **15** via a bus **14**, and furthermore, a ROM (read only memory) **12** and a RAM (random access memory) **13** are connected to the bus. An IC-card contactless communication unit **19**

for detecting an IC card **2**, (wireless LAN adapter having a wireless communication unit and a memory), when it is placed in close proximity thereto and reading data from and writing data to the IC card, a wireless communication unit **20** for forming a wireless link and exchanging data with, for example, the access-point device **3**, by a wireless communication function conforming to IEEE 802.11b, according to access-point information, local-network information, or the like that is set by the CPU, (abstract, paragraphs 52-53). The personal computer **1-1**, reading on the claimed "external computer," starts processing when a user performs an operation for requesting that local-network information required for the personal computer (first apparatus) **1-2**, to form a wireless link with the personal computer be recorded in the IC card. When the user places the IC card in proximity to the IC-card contactless communication unit **19-1** of the personal computer, the IC-card contactless communication unit detects the IC card, and the IC-card contactless communication unit records the local-network information required for the personal computer **1-2** to form a wireless link with the personal computer **1-1** in the IC card (registration step) (paragraphs 78 and 80). The personal computer requires an SSID and a WEP KEY defined in IEEE 802.11b to be set before forming a wireless link with the access-point device, (causing an external computer apparatus to register Service Set ID of a target printer to use the wireless LAN adapter into the memory, in a case that the external computer apparatus is connected to the wireless LAN adapter, wherein the Service Set ID defines wireless LAN communication of the target printer) (abstract, paragraph 50). When the user places the IC card in proximity to the IC-card contactless communication unit **19-2** of the personal

computer **1-2**, the IC-card contactless communication unit detects the IC card, and determines whether local-network information is recorded in the IC card. If it is determined that local-network information is recorded in the IC card, the IC-card contactless communication unit reads the local-network information recorded in the IC card, (a second reading step of causing the printing apparatus to read the Service Set ID from the memory of the wireless LAN adapter). The CPU **11-2** sets network configuration of the wireless communication unit **20-2** according to the local-network information read by the IC-card contactless communication unit, reading on the claimed (setting step causing the [printing] apparatus to set the Service Set ID read in said second reading step in the wireless LAN communication unit of the wireless LAN adapter connected to the [printing] apparatus). Thus, a wireless LAN is formed between the personal computer **1-1** and the personal computer **1-2** in ad-hoc mode, (communication method for allowing a [printing] apparatus connected to a wireless LAN adapter having a wireless communication unit and a memory, to perform wireless LAN communication, said communication method comprising a communication step of performing wireless LAN communication using the Service Set ID set) (paragraphs 84 and 85).

Sato clearly shows and discloses a network system that comprises a target device to be managed that is connected to a network, and a management device that manages the target device, wherein the management device enables the target device to establish communications over the network and includes a first integrated circuit (IC) card drive in which an IC card stores communication parameters for enabling the

management device to manage the target device, and wherein the target device includes a second IC card drive for reading the communication parameters stored in the IC card to set the communication parameters that have been read. The network system uses the IC card as a relay to perform an initial setting of the communication parameters on the target device. This enables the communication parameters to be set only by insertion of the IC card into the target device, achieving a relatively easy setting operation, (paragraph 10). When a user of the management device **10** withdraws an IC card **50** from the IC card driver **20** of the management device, and carries and inserts the IC card into the IC card driver **70** of the network apparatus **60**, the controller **61** reads and sets some of the communication parameters stored in the IC card corresponding to the pertinent network apparatus. More specifically, the controller sets the communication parameters obtained through the IC card drive and the interface **66** on the storage part **65** (paragraphs 71-75). The management device may further store an address of the management device in the IC card, and the above target device may call the address to communicate with the management device after setting the communication parameters. This allows the target device to communicate with the management device to confirm the setting of the communication parameters. Moreover, the target device, when communicating with the management device, may transmit the device information unique to the target device to the management device, and the management device may store the device information unique to the target device. This allows the management device to manage the communication parameters and device information of the target device (causing an external computer to register

printer ID of a target printer to use the wireless LAN adapter; a first reading step of causing the printing apparatus to read printer ID from the memory, in a case that the wireless LAN adapter in which the printer ID has been registered in said registration step is connected to the printing apparatus) (paragraph 12). The controller **61** determines whether an address of the management device **10** is included in the IC card **50**, and if included, calls that address via the communication port **62**, and performs a communications test. If the controller can communicate with the management device, the controller determines that the set communication parameters are valid, and completes the communications test. In this case, the management device transmits to the network apparatuses notification (response confirming completion) that test communications from the controller have been responded to. On the other hand, if the controller cannot communicate with the management device, the controller determines that the set communication parameters are invalid, and completes the communications test. The controller, if required, may transmit the device information and/or the security information (i.e., user ID and password pairs) upon communications test, (a comparison step of comparing the printer ID read in said first reading step with printer ID of the printing apparatus preset in the printing apparatus; a notification step of notifying a user of an error, in a case that the printer ID of the printing apparatus does not match with printer ID read in said first reading step) (paragraph 85).

Bartolome et al. clearly show and disclose a communication system that may include one or more wireless devices **304**, a network member fixed computer device **311**, and a computer network **318**. The wireless device may be any type of mobile

wireless device capable of communicating in a wireless manner with other wireless devices. This may include radio frequency communication and may additionally include infrared communication. The wireless device may be, for example, a cellular telephone, a pager, a laptop or notebook computer, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), etc. The network member device is not itself a wireless infrastructure device. For example, the network member device 311 may be a personal computer, a network workstation, a dumb terminal, a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile, a disk or tape drive, a disk drive server, etc., (printing apparatus). The computer network may be a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), a virtual private network (VPN), etc., (wireless LAN communication) (col. 3 lines 10-50). The network member device may include a wireless communication card **417** that further includes a modem card **424** and an associated antenna **403** and a bridge **429**. The modem card may be any type of standard modem card capable of communicating with a wireless device. The modem card performs data conversion and performs wireless transmission and reception of data, such as through radio frequency (RF) communications. The modem card may operate according to any known wireless protocol, such as cellular formats, BLUETOOTH, etc., (wireless LAN adapter). In operation, the modem card conducts wireless communications with one or more wireless devices (communication step of causing the wireless communication unit of the wireless LAN adapter connected to the printing apparatus to perform the wireless LAN communication) (col. 5 lines 25-55, col. 6 lines 21-23).

Noda, Sato and Bartolome et al., however, lack the claimed limitation "wherein if there is an error, the SSID is not read from the memory of the wireless LAN adapter," therefore this limitation, in conjunction with other limitations recited in claims 1, 4 and 5, are novel and unobvious in view of the combination of Noda, Sato and Bartolome et al.

Consider claims 13, 14 and 17, the most relevant prior art of record, Noda (U.S. 2005/0015467 A1) in view of Sato (U.S. 2003/0009541 A1) in view Bartolome et al. (U.S. 7,149,805 B2), fail to specifically disclose first reading the printer ID, wherein if there is an error, the SSID is not read from the memory of the wireless LAN adapter, and the SSID is read when the printer ID of the printing apparatus matches the printer of ID that was first read.

Noda clearly shows and discloses communication apparatus and method that allow setting for forming a wireless link. A personal computer (external computer apparatus) includes a CPU (central processing unit), which is connected to an input/output interface via a bus, and furthermore, a ROM (read only memory) and a RAM (random access memory) are connected to the bus. An IC-card contactless communication unit for detecting an IC card, (wireless LAN adapter) when it is placed in close proximity thereto and reading data from and writing data to the IC card, a wireless communication unit for forming a wireless link and exchanging data with, for example, the access-point device, by a wireless communication function conforming to IEEE 802.11b, according to access-point information, local-network information, or the like that is set by the CPU, (abstract, paragraphs 52-53). A first communication apparatus that includes wireless communication means for carrying out wireless communication

with another electronic apparatus based on a predetermined wireless communication standard and reading means for reading the setting information, by contactless communication, from an information recording medium detected by a detection means. Since the access-point device is capable of writing data to the IC card, it is possible to additionally record user information for forming a link with a wireless LAN that is formed via the access-point device, (fig. 1, paragraphs 10 and 69). When the user places the IC card in proximity to the IC-card contactless communication unit **19-2** of the personal computer **1-2**, the IC-card contactless communication unit detects the IC card, and determines whether local-network information is recorded in the IC card. The personal computer requires an SSID and a WEP KEY defined in IEEE 802.11b to be set before forming a wireless link with the access-point device, reading on the claimed "register Service Set ID," (abstract, paragraph 50). If it is determined that local-network information is recorded in the IC card, the IC-card contactless communication unit reads the local-network information recorded in the IC card. The CPU **11-2** sets network configuration of the wireless communication unit **20-2** according to the local-network information read by the IC-card contactless communication unit. Thus, a wireless LAN is formed between the personal computer **1-1** and the personal computer **1-2** in ad-hoc mode, ([printing] apparatus which is capable of performing wireless LAN communication by being connected with a wireless LAN adapter having a wireless LAN communication unit and a memory, comprising a detection unit configured to detect a connection with the wireless LAN adapter; a second reading unit configured to read Service Set ID from the memory, in a case that the printer ID of the printing apparatus matches with the

printer ID read by said first reading unit, wherein the Service Set ID is registered in the memory by the external computer apparatus; a setting unit configured to set the Service Set ID read by said second reading unit in the wireless LAN communication unit of the wireless LAN adapter connected to the [printing] apparatus as wireless communication parameters for which the wireless LAN communication unit performs the wireless LAN communication, and wireless communication means for performing the wireless LAN communication using LAN the Service Set ID set in the wireless communication unit) (paragraphs 84 and 85).

Sato clearly shows and discloses a network system that comprises a target device to be managed that is connected to a network, and a management device that manages the target device, wherein the management device enables the target device to establish communications over the network and includes a first integrated circuit (IC) card drive in which an IC card stores communication parameters for enabling the management device to manage the target device, and wherein the target device includes a second IC card drive for reading the communication parameters stored in the IC card to set the communication parameters that have been read. The network system uses the IC card as a relay to perform an initial setting of the communication parameters on the target device. This enables the communication parameters to be set only by insertion of the IC card into the target device, achieving a relatively easy setting operation, (paragraph 10). When a user of the management device **10** withdraws an IC card **50** from the IC card driver **20** of the management device, and carries and inserts the IC card into the IC card driver **70** of the network apparatus **60**, the controller **61**

reads and sets some of the communication parameters stored in the IC card corresponding to the pertinent network apparatus. More specifically, the controller sets the communication parameters obtained through the IC card drive and the interface **66** on the storage part **65** (paragraphs 71-75). The management device may further store an address of the management device in the IC card, and the above target device may call the address to communicate with the management device after setting the communication parameters. This allows the target device to communicate with the management device to confirm the setting of the communication parameters.

Moreover, the target device, when communicating with the management device, may transmit the device information unique to the target device to the management device, and the management device may store the device information unique to the target device. This allows the management device to manage the communication parameters and device information of the target device, reading on the claimed "a first reading unit configured to read printer ID from the memory of the wireless LAN adapter, wherein the printer ID is registered as a printer identifier of a target printer to use the wireless LAN adapter in the memory by an external computer apparatus, in a case that said detection unit detects that the wireless LAN adapter is connected to the printing apparatus," (paragraph 12). The controller **61** determines whether an address of the management device **10** is included in the IC card **50**, and if included, calls that address via the communication port **62**, and performs a communications test. If the controller can communicate with the management device, the controller determines that the set communication parameters are valid, and completes the communications test. In this

case, the management device transmits to the network apparatuses notification (response confirming completion) that test communications from the controller have been responded to. On the other hand, if the controller cannot communicate with the management device, the controller determines that the set communication parameters are invalid, and completes the communications test. The controller, if required, may transmit the device information and/or the security information (i.e., user ID and password pairs) upon communications test, (a comparison unit configured to compare the printer ID read by said first reading unit with printer ID of the printing apparatus preset in the printing apparatus; a notification unit configured to notify a user of an error, in a case that the printer ID of the printing apparatus does not match with printer ID read by said first reading unit) (paragraph 85).

Bartolome et al. clearly show and disclose a communication system that may include one or more wireless devices **304**, a network member fixed computer device **311**, and a computer network **318**. The wireless device may be any type of mobile wireless device capable of communicating in a wireless manner with other wireless devices. This may include radio frequency communication and may additionally include infrared communication. The wireless device may be, for example, a cellular telephone, a pager, a laptop or notebook computer, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), etc. The network member device is not itself a wireless infrastructure device. For example, the network member device 311 may be a personal computer, a network workstation, a dumb terminal, a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile, a disk or tape drive, a disk drive server, etc., (printing apparatus). The computer network may be a local area

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network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), a virtual private network (VPN), etc., (wireless LAN communication), (col. 3 lines 10-50). The network member device may include a wireless communication card **417** that further includes a modem card **424** and an associated antenna **403** and a bridge **429**. The modem card may be any type of standard modem card capable of communicating with a wireless device. The modem card performs data conversion and performs wireless transmission and reception of data, such as through radio frequency (RF) communications. The modem card may operate according to any known wireless protocol, such as cellular formats, BLUETOOTH, etc., (wireless LAN adapter). In operation, the modem card conducts wireless communications with one or more wireless devices, (printing apparatus connected to the wireless LAN adapter performs wireless LAN communication via a wireless communication unit of the wireless LAN adapter) (col. 5 lines 25-55, col. 6 lines 21-23).

Noda, Sato and Bartolome et al., however, lack the claimed limitation "wherein if there is an error, the SSID is not read from the memory of the wireless LAN adapter," therefore this limitation, in conjunction with other limitations recited in claims 13, 14 and 17, are novel and unobvious in view of the combination of Noda, Sato and Bartolome et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAIME M. HOLLIDAY whose telephone number is (571)272-8618. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, V. Paul Harper can be reached on (571) 272-7605. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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